



St. Petersburg Police Department News Release



For Immediate Release

March 31, 2009

Media Relations Office

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Media Relations Office

Bill Proffitt

George Kajtsa

Updated Information – Homicide at 1755 Martin Luther King Dr. Street South

Arrested:

Hector William Pena III, Black/Male, DOB: 2-8-91, 4602 Sunset Rd, Naples, Florida.

He is charged with One Count of 2nd Degree Murder and 4 Counts of Attempted Second Degree Murder.

Dontavious Marquel Sparrow, Black/Male, DOB: 5-5-91, 4224 Michigan Links, Apt 419, Ft. Myers, Florida.

He is charged as a Principal to One Count of 2nd Degree Murder and as a Principal to Four Counts of Second Degree Murder.

Synopsis:

On Wednesday September 30, 2009 at 3:16am, St. Petersburg Police Officers responded to a call of a "person shot" at the Snax Food Store, 1755 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street South. Officers and medical personnel arrived at the scene and rendered first aid to the victim, Marquise Pennywell, and then he was transported him to Bayfront Medical Center.

Pennywell suffered injuries from at least 3 gunshot wounds and later died at the hospital. He was pronounced dead at 4:31 am.

Homicide detectives learned that Sparrow and Pena were in a black Ford Escape when they became involved in a dispute with the victim, Pennywell, and four of his friends, in the parking lot of the Snax Food Mart, 1755 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street South.

The exact details of that dispute are not yet clear at this point in the investigation, but it appears there was some type of verbal confrontation prior to the shooting.

Sparrow was the driver of the SUV and Pena was the passenger.

Pena is charged as the shooter in this case, firing several rounds from a semi-automatic handgun into the group of five friends. Pennywell was struck several times, but no one else in his group of friends was injured.

Witnesses at the scene recognized the suspect's vehicle as a frequent customer at the store. Investigators learned additional information that led them to believe the suspect's vehicle could be found in a neighborhood adjacent to the store.

Investigators combed the neighborhoods around the store and located the black Ford Escape at 2104 10th Street South at about 10:30am.

Both suspects were located at that address. Sparrow, who had an active arrest warrant for a narcotics violation, was found hiding in the attic. Both were taken to the police department where they were interviewed by the detectives.

Four semi-automatic handguns were recovered from the attic of that home, which belongs to a relative of one of the suspects.



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Both suspects made certain admissions in the case, but those details are not available at this time.

Both suspects have been transported to the Pinellas County Jail.

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Hector William Pena III



Dontavious Marquel Sparrow